

# **Citizen Trade Policy Commission**

**Friday, October 28, 2005**

State House, Room 126, Augusta

## **Meeting Summary**

**Members present:** Sen. Margaret Rotundo (co-chair), Rep. John Patrick (co-chair), Sen. Kevin Raye, Sen. Bruce Bryant, Rep. Roderick Carr, Rep. Deborah Hutton, Cynthia Phinney, Mary Ellen Johnston, Linda Pistner, Matt Schlobohm, Peter Connell, Bjorn Claeson, Carla Dickstein, Dr. Robert Weiss, Paul Volckhausen, Mark Haggerty and Wade Merritt (on behalf of Richard Coyle).

**Members absent:** Barbara Van Burgel, James Wilfong, Jim Dusch, Richard Coyle, Vanessa Santarelli

**Staff present:** Curtis Bentley and Nicole Dube, Legislative Analysts

### **I. Introductions**

Sen. Rotundo convened the Commission meeting and asked Commission members to introduce themselves.

### **II. Office of the United States Trade Representative - Christina Sevilla**

#### **Christina Sevilla - Presentation**

Christina Sevilla gave a brief presentation covering the following areas.

1. The overall case for trade
2. What trade agreements do and do not do
  - Local and federal regulation
  - Procurements
  - Investment rules
  - Consultation with states

Following Christina's prepared statements the Commission asked a series of questions and follow-up questions. Additionally, Alan Stearns asked Christina Sevilla a number of questions and made statements on behalf of the Governor. Per the Commission's request, a transcript of the proceedings is being prepared by staff and will be sent to Commission members and Maine's Congressional Delegation. Additionally, the Commission directed staff to send USTR the list of questions posed to Christina Sevilla for a written response along with a 'thank you' letter.

### **III. Commission work session**

#### **Annual report**

- Annual report - The Commission reviewed the final draft of its annual report and voted unanimously to approve it with minor modifications.

### Assessment

- Discussed options for producing an annual report by the end of FY 2005-06
- Directed staff to pull together existing literature dealing with the impacts international trade agreements have had on Maine for the Commission's review.
- Directed subcommittees to review subject areas to determine if they may need technical assistance from outside entities

### Scheduling the Next Commission Meeting and Public Hearing

#### Next meeting:

- The Commission's next meeting will be held on December 2, 2005, starting at 9:30 a.m. ??? will talk to the Commission about labor and economic development interests in trade.
- For planning purposes, the Commission agreed to hold its monthly meetings on the first Friday of every month unless circumstances require alternative dates.
- Commission agreed to invite Alan Stearns from the Governor's office to its next meeting to discuss points of contact with USTR and to establish a subcommittee with Richard Coyle, Linda Pistner and others to keep active contact between the Commission, the Governor, SPOC and USTR.
- Commission members were directed to bring a list of entities that they would like the Commission to work with to help amplify the Commission's voice on trade related matters.
- Members should think about local trade issues that the Commission should work on and bring those ideas to the next meeting

#### Next public hearing:

- The Commission agreed to hold the next public hearing in Houlton, Maine on at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 21, 2005. Representative Carr will work with staff to find a suitable location.
- The public hearing will focus on border issues facing Maine businesses
- The Commission directed staff to issue a press release and to notify Maine's Congressional Delegation and the Governor about the meeting.

### Briefing on IRTPA by Wade Merritt

- Commission voted unanimously to go on record as opposing the new passport requirement for crossing the border with Canada and directed the staff to notify the Governor's Office immediately and to send a letter stating the Commission's opposition to Maine's Congressional Delegation, the President of the United States and the Secretary of State. The Commission also directed staff to send out a press release.

### FY 2005-06 Budget review and Executive Director position

- The Commission reviewed its budget for FY 2005-06 and decided not to develop legislation to create an executive director position.

### Over-all Work plan for FY 2005- 06

- Commission will seek to improve relationship with USTR and will work with Maine's Congressional Delegation and other states to achieve this objective
- It was suggested that the Commission review the Federal Trade Act of 2002 because it is coming up for reauthorization in 2007 and the Commission may wish to put together what it thinks should be in a trade agreement
- Trade Promotion Authority – it was suggested that the Commission try to weigh in on this issue and directed staff to go to NCSL's webpage on this topic and send it to Commission members
- IT was suggested that the Commission work with Maine's Congressional Delegation to create more transparency during the negotiation process of trade agreements
- Legislators out-reach effort to educate legislators about the potential and current impacts international trade agreements are having on Maine. Invite Peter Riggs for the Forum on Trade And Democracy to meet with legislative committees to discuss why they need to consider trade matters when working bills
- Directed staff to poll OPLA for trade related items that were associated with the last legislative session
- The Commission agreed the second public hear should be held in central Maine.

### **III. Sub-committee Work Session**

Subcommittees agreed to meet after the adjournment of the Commission and to report back on its work to the full Commission at its next meeting.

### **IV. Adjournment.**

The Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 1:00PM